

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-11 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 5 are herein amended. Claim 4 is herein cancelled. No new matter is added. It is respectfully submitted that this paper is fully responsive to the Office action mailed on April 17, 2008.

Allowable Claim

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim.

To expedite prosecution, Applicants hereby amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter described in allowable claim 4. In view of this amendment, Applicants request that claim 1 be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tonella* (US 5,883,963) in view of *Hermann* (US 6,360,187).

As discussed above, claim 1 is herein amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter described in original claim 4. In view of this amendment and the remarks presented in the Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111, filed on January 7, 2008, Applicants request that the obviousness rejection of claims 1 and 3 be withdrawn.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over *Tonella* (US 5,883,963) in view of *Hermann* (US 6,360,187) in further view of *Turnbull et al.* (US 6,980,092).

Application No.: 10/661,534
Art Unit: 2615

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 031115

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) are unpatentable over *Tonella* (US 5,883,963) in view of *Hermann* (US 6,360,187) in further view of *Mayuzumi* (US 2002/0052182).

Applicants request that the obviousness rejections of claims 2 and 5, which depend from independent claim 1, be withdrawn in view of the amendment to claim 1.

Conclusion

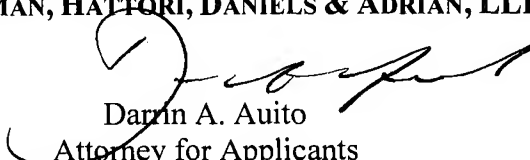
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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